



Travel COMPANION

botswana
tourism board

NORTHERN BOTSWANA





“Half the fun of the travel..

is the esthetic of lostness”

Ray Bradbury



Welcome to Botswana

Botswana is widely regarded as having some of the best wilderness and wildlife areas on the African continent. With a full 38 percent of its total land area devoted to national parks, reserves and wildlife management areas - for the most part unfenced, allowing animals to roam wild and free - travel through many parts of the country has the feeling of moving through an immense Nature wonderland.

Botswana is a rarity in our over-populated, over-developed world. Untamed and untameable, it is one of the last great refuges for Nature's magnificent pageantry of life.

Experience here the stunning beauty of the world's largest intact inland Delta - the Okavango; the unimaginable vastness of the world's second largest game reserve - the Central Kalahari Game Reserve; the isolation and other-worldliness of the Makgadikgadi - uninhabited pans the size of Portugal; and the astoundingly prolific wildlife of the Chobe National Park.

Botswana is the last stronghold for a number of endangered bird and mammal species, including Wild

Dog, Cheetah, Brown Hyena, Cape Vulture, Wattled Crane, Kori Bustard, and Pel's Fishing Owl. This makes your safari experience even more memorable, and at times you will feel simply surrounded by wild animals.

The first - and most lasting impressions - will be of vast expanses of uninhabited wilderness stretching from horizon to horizon, the sensation of limitless space, astoundingly rich wildlife and bird viewing, night skies littered with stars and heavenly bodies of an unimaginable brilliance, and stunning sunsets of unearthly beauty.

As well, with more and more cultural tourism options on offer, you will be charmed by the people of Botswana, visiting their villages and experiencing first-hand their rich cultural heritage.

But perhaps most of all, Botswana's greatest gift is its ability to put us in touch with our natural selves. It offers that vital link so keenly felt by inhabitants of the developed world, a pervasive void we feel but often cannot name - our connectedness with Nature and the astonishing diversity of plants and animals to be explored.

About Us...

BOTSWANA TOURISM BOARD



The Botswana Tourism Board (BTB) was established by an Act of Parliament in 2003. Its mandate is to market and promote Botswana as a premier tourist destination of choice, to promote Botswana as a tourism investment venue, and to grade and classify accommodation facilities in the country. The Board commenced its operations in January 2006.

A Board of Directors, consisting of 15 members and appointed by the Minister of Wildlife, Environment and Tourism, governs the BTB. The Board is comprised of the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, a representative from the governing Ministry, and 12 members from the public and private sectors in the tourism industry.

BTB holds a broad portfolio that touches nearly all aspects of tourism development in the country, including:

- TO plan, develop and implement tourism marketing and promotion strategies aimed at creating and sustaining a positive image of Botswana as a tourist and investor destination;

- TO plan, formulate and implement strategies for promoting sustainable tourism development in collaboration with the tourism industry's private sector, local authorities, local communities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);

- TO determine policies for giving effect to the objects and purposes of the Act that established the BTB;

- TO advise Government to change, review or formulate policy and strategies where necessary;

- TO implement Government policies and programmes aimed at facilitating the continued growth and development of the tourism sector;

- TO set performance targets and to design programmes aimed at facilitating the continued growth and development of tourism;

- TO develop and implement appropriate strategies for achieving annual work plan objectives and to set performance targets aimed at the promotion of tourism business in Botswana;

- TO investigate any matter that has a negative effect on the tourism industry, and to make recommendations thereon to the Government;

- TO manage and co-ordinate Botswana's tourism promotional and publicity programmes;

- TO provide market research information and market intelligence on tourism;

- TO promote the expansion of existing and new investment in Botswana's tourism sector;



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TO establish and expand local as well as international travel trade networks to promote and sell Botswana;

TO market and promote the establishment of joint tourism business ventures between citizen and foreign investors;

TO grade and classify accommodation facilities in the tourism industry;

TO promote the improvement of tourism industry standards, in the areas of service standards and a code of ethics;

TO conduct tourism awareness campaigns within and outside Botswana; and

TO develop and improve existing tourism opportunities, and to diversify the sector to include other forms of tourism, such as cultural and heritage tourism, eco-tourism, entertainment,

recreational and leisure tourism, and to bring them to the required marketable standard.

The grading system serves as a means to protect the consumer and guarantee quality accommodation and services in Botswana. It also assists the accommodation establishment to benchmark its performance against set standards.

Additionally, the grading system is a useful tool to indicate to travel agents, tour operators and tourists the general quality of accommodation facilities in the country. This can serve as a guide for tourists planning their destinations in Botswana.

The system also provides a framework to industry investors so that they are able to design their facilities to attract the desired market segments.

BTB is funded through grants received from the Government.

Northern Highlights

Enjoy enchanting mokoro rides through the Okavango Delta, and experience unique photographic opportunities.



Discover spectacular wildlife including Africa's incredible Big Five.



Experience our national monuments; San rock paintings at Tsodilo and spelunking caves at Gcwihaba.



Travel through 12 IBAs
(Important Bird Areas) and
enjoy fantastic birding.

Take a cruise on the Chobe River - enjoy
inspiring scenery, rich concentrations of
wildlife and breathtaking sunsets.



Travel COMPANION

NORTHERN BOTSWANA

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Travel COMPANION to...

One of the most sought after wilderness destinations in the world, the Okavango Delta gives entrance to the spectacle of wild Africa such as dreams are made of – the heart-stopping excitement of big game viewing, the supreme tranquility and serenity of an untouched delta, and evocative scenes of extraordinary natural beauty.

A journey to the Okavango Delta – deep into Africa's untouched interior – is like no other. Moving from wetland to dryland – traversing the meandering palm and papyrus fringed waterways, passing palm-fringed islands, and thick woodland, resplendent with lush vegetation, and rich in wildlife – reveals the many facets of this unique

Okavango Delta

ecosystem, the largest intact inland delta in the world.

The Okavango Delta is situated deep within the Kalahari Basin, and is often referred to as the 'jewel' of the Kalahari.

That the Okavango exists at all – deep within this thirland – seems remarkable. Shaped like a fan, the Delta is fed by the Okavango River, the third largest in southern Africa. It has been steadily developed over the millennia by millions of tonnes of sand carried down the river from Angola.

Swollen with floodwaters from the summer rains, the Okavango River travels from the Angolan highlands, crosses into Botswana at Molembo in

the Caprivi, then later spills over the vast, fan-shaped Delta.

The timing of the floods is uncanny. Just as the waters from Botswana's summer rains disappear (April, May), so the floodwaters begin their journey – 1300 kilometres of which is through Kalahari sands – revitalising a vast and remarkably diverse ecosystem of plant and animal life.

The water's flow, distribution and drainage patterns are continually changing, principally due to tectonic activity underground. As an extension of Africa's Great Rift Valley, the Okavango is set within a geographically unstable area of faults, and regularly experiences land movements, tremors and minor quakes.



By the time the water reaches Maun, at the Delta's southern fringes, its volume is a fraction of what it was. As little as two to three percent of the water reaches the Thamalakane River in Maun, over 95 percent lost to evapo-transpiration.

But the flow doesn't stop in Maun. It may continue east to the Boteti River, to fill Lake Xau or the Makgadikgadi Pans, or drain west to Lake River to fill Lake Ngami.

There are three main geographical areas: the Panhandle, the Delta, and dryland.

The Panhandle begins at the Okavango's northern reaches, at Mohembo, extending down for approximately 80 kilometres. Its

corridor-like shape is contained within two parallel faults in the Earth's crust. Here the river runs deep and wide and the swamps are perennially flooded. The dominant vegetation is vast papyrus beds and large stands of phoenix palms. The main tourist attractions of the Panhandle are fishing, birding and visiting the colourful villages that line its western fringes.

At Seronga, the fan-shaped Delta emerges, and the waters spill over the Delta, rejuvenating the landscape and creating stunning mosaics of channels, lagoons, ox-bow lakes, flooded grasslands and thousands upon thousands of islands of an endless variety of shapes and sizes.

Many of the smaller islands are grandiose termitaria built by fungus-growing termites, one of 400 termite species in Africa, whose fantastic structures are a source of refuge and food for many animals.

The Delta region of the Okavango can vary in size from 15 000 square kilometres during drier periods to a staggering 22 000 square kilometres during wetter periods. Its dominant plant species are reeds, mokolwane palms, acacia, sycamore fig, sausage trees, raintrees and African mangosteen.

At the Delta's lower reaches, the perennial swamps give way to seasonal swamps and flooded grasslands. To the southeast the third





vegetation region becomes evident, as it changes to true dryland. There are three major land masses here: the Matsebi Ridge, Chief's Island and the Moremi tongue. Here the vegetation is predominantly mopane, acacia and scrub bush and the land is dotted with pans. It is to this region that large numbers of mammals retreat during the dry winter months.

Major tourist attractions in the Delta and the dryland areas are game viewing, birding and boating, often in the traditional mokoro. The diversity and numbers of animals and birds can be staggering. A recent overview of the Okavango records 122 species of mammals, 71 species of fish, 444 species of birds, 64 species of reptiles and 1300 species of flowering plants. A successful rhino reintroduction programme in the Okavango now puts the population of White Rhino

at approximately 35, and Black Rhino at 4.

Major species to be seen include: elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, hippo, crocodile, rhino, red lechwe, waterbuck, reedbuck, duiker, impala, kudu, steenbok, wildebeest, hartebeest, sable, roan, tsessebe, lion, leopard, cheetah, genet, serval, and caracal, along with an immense variety of birds – land and water, resident and migratory, some of which are rare and endangered.

It should be noted, however, that game viewing very much depends on season, and water and food availability.

The Okavango is a proposed World Heritage Site. Its long-term conservation is ensured through government policy and regulations (though only Moremi Game Reserve has an official protected status), the

efforts and initiatives of camps and lodges in its concessions, the recently launched Okavango Development Management Plan (ODMP) and its status as a Ramsar site, under IUCN, an agreement that limits its utilisation and development.

ACTIVITIES

- Game drives
- Safari walks
- Bird watching
- Boat cruises
- Elephant Back Safari
- Horse riding
- Mokoro
- Photography



Travel COMPANION to...

Moremi Game Reserve

This gem of a national park has garnered a number of important distinctions. In 2008, it was voted the 'best game reserve in Africa' by the prestigious African Travel and Tourism Association at South Africa's premier tourism fair, Indaba.

It is the first reserve in Africa that was established by local residents. Concerned about the rapid depletion of wildlife in their ancestral lands – due to uncontrolled hunting and cattle encroachment – the Batawana people of Ngamiland, under the leadership of the deceased Chief Moremi III's wife, Mrs. Moremi, took the bold initiative

to proclaim Moremi a game reserve in 1963.

It is the only officially protected area of the Okavango Delta, and as such holds tremendous scientific, environmental and conservation importance.

And, undoubtedly, Moremi ranks as one of the most beautiful reserves in Africa, possibly in the world.

Moremi Game Reserve is situated in the central and eastern areas of the Okavango, and includes the Moremi Tongue and Chief's Island, boasting one of the richest and most diverse ecosystems on the continent.

This makes for spectacular game viewing and bird watching, including all major naturally occurring herbivore and carnivore species in the region, and over 400 species of birds, many migratory and some endangered. Both Black and White Rhino have recently been re-introduced, now making the reserve a 'Big Five' destination.

Contained within an area of approximately 3900 sq kms, here land and Delta meet to create an exceedingly picturesque preserve of floodplains – either seasonally or perennially wet, waterways, lagoons, pools, pans, grasslands and riparian,



riverine and mopane forests. This terrain makes driving Moremi's many loops and trails both delightful and, at times, totally inspiring.

Moremi is a very popular destination for the self-drive camper, and is often combined with the Chobe National Park to the northeast.

The rustic Third Bridge campsite, situated near the pretty Sekiri River, flanked with thick stands of papyrus, is a favourite, creating lasting memories of resplendent Okavango sunsets. 🌅





Travel COMPANION to...

Linyanti, Selinda & Kwando

At the extreme northern reaches of Botswana – the Caprivi just on the other side – lie three of the most splendid, wild and secluded destinations the country has to offer.

Sandwiched between the Chobe National Park to the east and the Okavango south, the extensive Kwando, Selinda and Linyanti concessions offer superb wildlife viewing – and terrain to rival the physical beauty of the Okavango.

And no wonder – both share geographical similarities. Like the Okavango River, the Kwando River flows south from Angola across the Caprivi Strip and into Botswana. Like the Okavango, it slowly fills the Linyanti Swamps. The outflow from

the Swamps then fills the Linyanti River, which courses east into the Chobe River.

The swamps that fan out from the rivers carry the same magnificent natural history as the Okavango – picturesque channels, lagoons, papyrus stands and reedbeds. Riparian forest lines the waterways, giving rise to magnificent, towering trees. Dry riverbeds – the Selinda Spillway and the Savuté Channel – meet the swamps, their lack of flowing water possibly determined by faulting underground that halts the course of the waters. Interestingly, faults in this area are believed to be the southernmost point of Africa's Great Rift Valley.

The reserves string along the rivers, with the Kwando to the northwest, Selinda (1350 sq kms in area) south and Linyanti (1250 sq kms in area) east. A small area of the Chobe National Park juts up to meet the Linyanti River and swamps; it has a government campsite and facilities for the self-drive camper, while the concessions offer private camps.

This is real African big game country, and during the dry season the permanent waters of both the Kwando and Linyanti Rivers serve as important migration points for wildlife from much of northern Botswana – including large herds of buffalo and elephant, wildebeest and zebra.



Virtually all naturally occurring antelope and predators can be seen in these concessions, depending, of course, on the season, and food and water availability. These include waterbuck, reedbuck, giraffe, impala, kudu, and with any luck the rare and shy sitatunga, and accompanying lion, hyena, leopard, cheetah, jackal, serval and caracal.

But perhaps the greatest attraction of this part of Botswana is the feeling it gives of extreme isolation, and being completely removed from the world as we know it. The camps are small and private, with perhaps only twenty or so guests present at one time.

There's nothing else out there – except you, the bush and a fascinating contingent of wild animals – just waiting to be discovered, and explored.





Travel COMPANION to...

Botswana's tourism capital lies on the southern fringes of the Okavango Delta, and still, despite recent modernisations, carries the feeling of a dusty, frontier town. For many tourists, Maun is the point of entry into the Delta, and often into Botswana, with direct flights from both Johannesburg and Gaborone.

Maun is the administrative centre of Ngamiland District and the seat of power of the Batawana people. The Batawana are an offshoot of the Bangwato of Serowe. Following a chieftainship dispute in the late 18th century, Kgosi (Chief) Tawana and his people left Serowe and settled in Ngamiland, first establishing their capital at Lake Ngami, then Toteng,

Maun

then Tsao and finally, in 1915, in Maun.

Ngamiland District comprises a fascinating variety of ethnic groups: the Hambukushu, Basubiya and Bayei – all of central African origins, who know the Okavango intimately, having expertly exploited and utilised its abundant resources for centuries. There are also the Banoka – the River Bushmen, who are the Okavango's original inhabitants, the Bakgalagadi, and the Baherero, who originate from Namibia, and whose women can be seen wearing brightly coloured Victorian style dresses as they stroll along the town roads, or sit outside their traditional rondavels.

Frequently, the 'people' side of the Okavango is overlooked, with tourists merely using Maun as a transit point to embark for the Delta. However, exploring the traditional villages along the western fringes of the Delta, in the Panhandle area, is worth the time and effort, and for many tourists, becomes a real highlight of their travels in Botswana.

The dramatic surge in the numbers of tourists coming to Botswana in the 1980s brought equally dramatic changes to Maun. Safari companies abound, and their signposts dot the sandy parking lots. Modern malls, shops, hotels and guesthouses have sprung up everywhere; and

now virtually any food item – from champagne, French cheeses, and chocolates down to commonplace necessities – can be purchased.

Today you can enjoy wilderness and wildlife by day and watch high tech DVDs by night, or walk into old government offices straight out of the colonial era.

Meanwhile, the timeless Thamalakane River meanders lazily through the town, setting the scene and mood for what lies ahead.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

MAUN WILDLIFE EDUCATIONAL PARK

This small reserve, situated on the outskirts of the town, holds a variety of antelope and small mammals, but no predators; visitors do their game-viewing on foot.

OKAVANGO SWAMPS CROCODILE FARM

Adult, juvenile and baby crocodiles can be seen up close and personal at this commercial farm about 15 kilometres from Maun, on the Sehitwa Road.

CULTURAL TOURS

BAYEI CULTURAL TOUR

A two to three hour tour to Sixaxa, a Bayei village about 30 minutes drive from Maun, familiarises visitors with traditional village life; they are invited to participate in typical chores, such as pounding maize or cooking over an open fire. Demonstrations are given on traditional tool-making, craft-making, basket-making, music and dance, and visitors may be invited to try traditional cuisine.

NATURAL HISTORY

NHABE MUSEUM

This small but interesting museum has displays on the arts, crafts and natural history of Botswana.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Shopping options are constantly expanding in Maun, and it hosts a number of conventional arts and crafts shops that sell a variety of products from Botswana and other African countries. Most are situated in the centre of Maun or at the airport.

At the town's outskirts, there are cottage industries where visitors can shop and watch village craft-makers at work.

BOTSWANA QUALITY BASKETS

Shoppers can watch village basket-makers at work, and buy quality hand-woven baskets; situated at Matlapaneng, just outside Maun.

SIBANDA'S CRAFTS

Sibanda's Crafts produces hand-painted, hand-stitched cotton textiles, such as tablecloths, table runners, cushion covers, placemats, rugs and wall hangings; situated on the Shorobe Road, just before the Sedia Hotel.

OKAVANGO CERAMICS

Pottery, both hand-made and hand-painted, along with paper and soaps provide an unusual array of products; situated on the Shorobe Road.

THE VELVET DUST MIGHT

This factory produces a wide range of hand-dyed cotton clothing, household items, bead and wire arts,



metalwork and silver jewellery. It also has a coffee shop selling home-made breads and cakes; situated on the Shorobe Road at the Okavango River Lodge turn-off.

DUNE

Dune sells locally made clothing, jewellery and accessories; situated in Maun's old Mall.

ACTIVITIES

- Camel riding (Boro)
- Moremi day trips
- Okavango scenic flights
- Sixaxa cultural village tours
- Tsodilo day trips
- Mokoro rides
- Crocodile Farm visits
- Panhandle village tours
- Fishing
- Island bush walks
- Basket weaving (Etsha 6, Gumare, Tsau)
- Arts and crafts sales
- Gcwihaba tours



Travel COMPANION to...

Rising abruptly, and dramatically, from the Kalahari scrub bush – the rock face turning a copper colour in the dying sun – the magnetic power of Tsodilo Hills both captivates and mystifies. There is an undeniable spiritualism about the Hills that immediately strikes the visitor.

Indeed for the people who live at the Hills – the San, the original inhabitants, and the Hambukushu who have periodically occupied the hills for the past 200 years – Tsodilo is a sacred, mystical place where ancestral spirits dwell. In earlier times, their ancestors performed religious rituals to ask for assistance, and for rain. They also put paintings on the rock face; and their meaning and

Tsodilo Hills

symbolism remain a mystery even to today.

Exploring the three main Hills – Male, Female, and Child – is a journey into antiquity. Archaeological research – ongoing for the past 30 years – estimates that Tsodilo has been inhabited for the past 100 000 years, making this one of the world's oldest historical sites. Pottery, iron, glass beads, shell beads, carved bone and stone tools date back 90 000 years.

The Early Iron Age Site at Tsodilo, called Divuyu, dates between 700-900AD, and reveals that Bantu people have been living at the hills for over 1000 years, probably having come from central Africa. They were cattle farmers, settled on the plateau,

and traded copper jewellery from the Congo, seashells from the Atlantic, and glass beads from Asia, probably in exchange for specularite and furs. There was a great deal of interaction between different groups, and trade networks were extensive.

Excavations also reveal over 20 mines that extracted specularite – a glittery iron-oxide derivative that was used in early times as a cosmetic.

Rock paintings are nearly everywhere – representing thousands of years of human inhabitation, and are amongst the region's finest, and most important. There are approximately 4 000 in all, comprising red finger paintings and geometrics. It is almost certain that most paintings were done



by the San, and some were painted by the pastoral Khoe who later settled in the area. The red paintings were done mainly in the first millennium AD.

Two of the most famous images are the rhino polychromes and the Eland Panel, the latter situated on a soaring cliff that overlooks the African wilderness. Indeed the inaccessibility of many of the paintings may be linked to their religious significance.

The fact that Tsodilo is totally removed from all other rock art sites in southern Africa adds to its aura of magic. The nearest known site is 250 kilometres away. What's more, the paintings at Tsodilo are generally unlike others in the southern African region – in both style and incidence

of certain images. Many are isolated figures and over half depict wild and domestic animals. In fact, there is a higher incidence of domestic animals than at other sites in southern Africa. Some are scenes, but few seem to tell a story. Many are outlined schematic designs and geometrical patterns.

There are walking trails – the Rhino Trail, Lion Trail and Cliff Trail, and others; and it is recommended that you take a guide to walk the trails and see the paintings. Both San and Hambukushu live near the hills, and guides from their villages can be easily arranged.

There is a small museum at the entrance to the site; the main campsite at Museum Headquarters

has ablutions and water, while the three other smaller campsites have no facilities. Because of its tremendous historical and cultural importance, Tsodilo was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002. 🌿

ACTIVITIES

Rock art

Bush walks

Museum visit

Cultural experience at local villages



Travel COMPANION to...

Certainly one of the wildest and most remote destinations in Botswana, Gcwihaba is a fascinating underground labyrinth of caverns and pits, linked passages, fantastical stalagmite and stalactite formations, and beautifully coloured flowstones that appear like waterfalls of rock.

Moving from the more commonly used northern entrance, you'll first come across thousands of bats hanging upside down from the cave walls. The most common species are the Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat – the largest insectivorous bat in southern Africa, the tiny Dent's Horseshoe Bat and the Egyptian Slit-faced Bat. They are harmless, but as you approach, be prepared for a possible mass exodus

Gcwihaba Caves

– clouds of screeching, fleeing bats winging through the dusty darkness.

Some caverns are up to 10 metres high, some are so tiny that one needs to squeeze, or crawl on the belly, to get through them; and some stalactites measure up to six metres in height, meeting their cousin stalagmites to form organic columns that seem to support the entire cave roof.

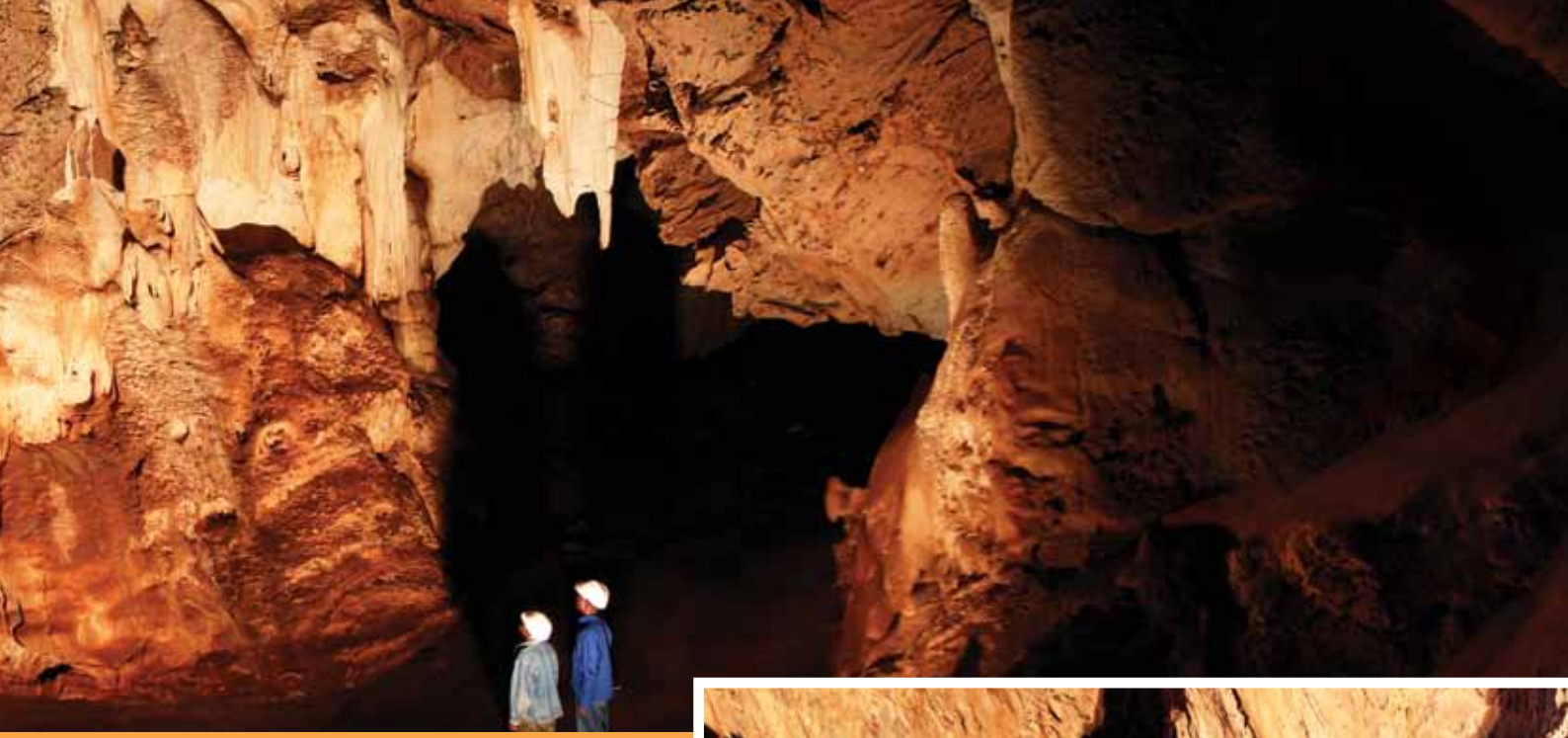
The main cavern is called 'Drotsky's Cavern,' named after the Ghanzi farmer Martinus Drotsky, who was the first European to be shown the caves by the !Kung San in 1934.

Situated on a sand ridge set amongst undulating dunes, Gcwihaba has been part of the Kalahari ecosystem for almost three

million years. It was formed during the Pleistocene Age when the area was much wetter. There have been dramatic climatic variations alternating very wet with very dry periods.

Unique ecosystems of flora and fauna have been recorded at Gcwihaba. These include the Namaqua Fig, only found at these hills and easily recognisable by its long trailing roots, the endemic aloe, tent tortoises, barking geckos, Ruepel's Parrot (also unique to this region) and barn owls which live in the caves.

Archaeological evidence suggests that the area was inhabited by foraging peoples thousands of years ago. Late Stone Age tools, burnt ostrich eggshells, animal bones, even



a fossilised primate skull, have been unearthed in the region. Indeed the caves hold important clues to the way prehistoric peoples related to their environments.

Gcwihaba is a designated National Monument and a proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

AHA HILLS

Straddling the Botswana/Namibia border, the Aha Hills lie about 50 kms northwest of Gcwihaba, and are visible from it. The Aha Hills are mostly rough and jagged, having been split by weathering into numerous faults and fractures. They cover an area of approximately 245 sq kms, mostly in Botswana.





Travel COMPANION to...

Chobe National Park

Whether arriving by air or road, the first glimpse of the river – deep and dazzling in the sandy terrain – is always breathtaking. It appears as a swathe of brilliant, peacock blue ribbon, winding its way through the tiny town of Kasane, and ensuing wilderness – the Chobe National Park.

Undoubtedly one of Africa's most beautiful rivers, the Chobe supports a diversity and concentration of wildlife unparalleled anywhere else in the country.

Established in 1968, the park covers approximately 11 700 sq kms, encompassing floodplains, swamps and woodland. The Chobe River forms its northern boundary. There are four distinct geographical areas

in the park: the Chobe Riverfront, the Ngwezumba Pans, Savuté and Linyanti.

The most accessible and frequently visited of Botswana's big game country, the Chobe Riverfront is most famous for its large herds of elephants and Cape Buffalo, which during the dry winter months converge upon the river to drink.

During this season, on an afternoon game drive, you may see hundreds of elephants at one time. You may be surrounded by elephants, as the main Serondella road becomes impassable and scores of family herds cross the main road to make their way to the river to drink, bathe and play.

Driving the loops that hug the river's edge, you may see up to 15 different species of animals on any one game drive, including waterbuck, lechwe, puku (this is the only part of Botswana where they can be seen), giraffe, kudu, roan and sable, impala, warthog, bushbuck, monkeys and baboons, along with the accompanying predators lion, leopard, hyena and jackal.

Take a river cruise – and you'll experience the park, and the animals, from another vantage point. Here you'll get up close and personal with hippo, crocodile and a mind-boggling array of water birds.

Over 460 bird species have been recorded in the park, making it one

of Africa's premier venues for bird safaris. Common species to be seen include the Sacred Ibis, Egyptian Geese, the ubiquitous cormorants and darters, Spur-winged Geese, Pel's Fishing Owl, Carmine Bee-eaters, most members of the kingfisher family, all the rollers, the unmistakable Fish Eagle, the Martial Eagle, and many members of the stork family.

The Chobe River rises in the northern Angolan highlands, travels enormous distances before it reaches Botswana at Ngoma. Like the Okavango and Zambezi rivers, the Chobe's course is affected by fault lines that are extensions of the Great Rift Valley. These three mighty rivers carry more water than all other rivers in southern Africa.

NGWEZUMBA PANS

The Ngwezumba Pans lie approximately 70 kms south of the Chobe River and comprise a large complex of clay pans, surrounded by mopane woodlands and grassland plains. During the rainy season, the pans fill with water, then attracting wildlife that move away from the permanent water sources of the Linyanti and Chobe Rivers.

SAVUTÉ

Truly at the interior of the park, Savuté boasts most of the Chobe species, except for water-loving antelope. It is best known for its predators,

particularly lion, cheetah and hyena, of which there are large resident populations.

The Savuté Channel flows from the Linyanti River for about 100 kilometres, carrying water away from the river and releasing it into a vast swampland called the Savuté Marsh, and further south onto the Mababe Depression, which is also fed by the Ngwezumba River from the northeast. The Mababe – immense and flat and fringed by thickets of trees – was once part of the Makgadikgadi super-lake. When filled with water, it becomes the venue for thousands of migratory birds and animals, particularly large herds of zebra.

Geographically, Savuté is an area of many curiosities. One of its greatest mysteries is the Savuté Channel itself, which has over the past 100 year inexplicably dried up and recommenced its flow several times. This irregular water flow explains the numerous dead trees that line the channel, for they have germinated and grown when the channel was dry and drowned when the channel flowed again.

LINYANTI

During the dry winter months, game-viewing at the permanent waters of the Linyanti can be excellent. The area that falls within the Chobe National Park, which has a public campsite, is sandwiched between photographic concessions to the west and hunting concessions to the east (see map).





Travel COMPANION to...

Situated on the banks of the Chobe River, Kasane is both the administrative centre of Chobe District and gateway to Chobe National Park. It also is an important point of debarkation for the nearby Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and Livingstone in Zambia, and Namibia's Caprivi Strip.

Kasane is situated a few kilometres from the Chobe River's confluence with the Zambezi, where the four countries of Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia meet.

At Kazungula, a few kilometres away, there is a ferry crossing between Botswana and Zambia.

On the main road that runs along the river, and further inland, there are a number of lodges and guest houses

Kasane

for travellers wishing to stay and enjoy the park. Some are splendidly situated, with wonderful views of the river and its wildlife.

Often visitors opt to have a morning game drive and an afternoon boat cruise, with an afternoon game drive the following day, as this is the time of day when elephants are usually spotted. Many visitors also tack on a day trip to Victoria Falls, which is about 80 kilometres from Kasane.

Kasane now boasts small shopping malls where all basic commodities can be purchased, and arts and crafts shops. While its main attraction is the park that lies a mere 10 kilometres away, there are nevertheless attractions in and around the town.

BAOBAB TREE

Behind the Kasane Police Station lies an absolutely immense baobab tree, with a hollow big enough for humans to enter; it was once used as a prison by colonial administrators.

SNAKE PARK

Kazungula's Snake Park holds about 50 snakes (17 species) in pleasant garden surroundings. They run the gamut from the harmless Brown House Snake to the deadly Boomslang and Black Mamba. CARAKAL, the NGO that runs the park, is a community-based project that runs educational programmes for Botswana children, and a training programme to involve Botswana in the tourism industry.

CHOBE DISTRICT LANDMARKS

LAKE LIAMBEZI

The people of the Chobe Enclave will always have fond memories of this dry lake. For here was where they used to derive their livelihood with ease. Hope of it filling up will never die, and that day will be met with great celebrations.

LESOMA MEMORIAL MONUMENT

In 1977, the brutal civil war in the then Rhodesia spilled over into Botswana. In the process, 15 Botswana Defence Force soldiers died; however, the incident only strengthened Botswana's national resolve to remain a peace-loving nation.

KASANE HOT SPRINGS

The warm and salty waters of this natural spring are believed to hold medicinal powers. This is also where a wildlife corridor between the villages of Kazungula and Kasane is situated.

SEBOBA WATER RAPIDS AND RECREATIONAL PARK

These rapids occur when the waters of the mighty Chobe River meet an undulating rock base that blocks the water's passage. The resulting rapids and beautiful natural setting give rise to the trees from which Kasane derives its name.

SIBUYU FOREST RESERVE

To the ancient San hunters and gatherers, this was a land of plenty that teemed with game, and held abundant water, and wild fruits and vegetables. Today the only traces of human existence and pre-historic activity lie at the ruins at Nunga. An

area ideal for camping and walking safaris, especially around the pans.

KAZUNGULA FERRY

The Chobe and Zambezi Rivers meet at Kazungula, 10 kms from Kasane, where a ferry connects Botswana with Zambia.

KAZUMA FOREST RESERVE

Kazuma Forest Reserve boasts the world's busiest elephant corridor that joins two of the world's greatest parks: the Chobe National Park in Botswana and Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. Ideal for camping and walking safaris.

MAIKAELELO FOREST RESERVE

The pans in this reserve offer lodging and campsites.

KASANE FOREST RESERVE

Lesoma Valley offers campsites, walking safaris, and night game drives by local tour operators.

ACTIVITIES

- Boat excursions
- Sunset boat cruises
- Fishing
- Game drives
- Day excursions to Victoria Falls
- Seboba Water Springs
- Kgotla visit
- Lesoma Memorial Monument
- Impalila and Kasika village cultural tours
- Cultural activities through Mowana Lodge





Botswana at a Glance

LOCATION:	Botswana is a land-locked country situated in southern Africa. It borders South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Approximately two-thirds of the country lies within the Tropics.
COUNTRY SIZE:	Botswana covers an area of 581 730 square kilometres – about the size of France or Kenya.
TOPOGRAPHY:	Most of the country is flat, with some small hills in the eastern areas. Kalahari sands cover 84 percent of the surface area. With the exception of the northern areas, most of Botswana is without perennial surface water.
CAPITAL:	Gaborone
URBAN CENTRES:	Francistown, Lobatse, Selebi-Phikwe
TOURISM CENTRES:	Maun, Kasane
INDEPENDENCE DAY:	30 September 1966
GOVERNMENT:	Multi-party democracy
HEAD OF STATE:	His Excellency Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama
POPULATION:	1.85 million, with an average annual growth rate of 2.4 % (2006 statistics)
NATIONAL LANGUAGE:	Setswana
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:	English
CURRENCY:	Pula
MAIN EXPORTS:	Diamonds, copper nickel, beef, soda ash, tourism
MAJOR CROPS:	Maize, sorghum, millet



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GETTING THERE

BY AIR

Air Botswana, Botswana's national and only airline, provides international flights to Johannesburg, and Harare and domestic flights to Francistown, Maun and Kasane.

Air Namibia flies to Maun everyday of the week except Tuesday and Thursday. Air Charter services are also available.

Both Air Botswana and South African Express have daily flights to Gaborone. Air Botswana has daily flights from Johannesburg to Maun. South African Express will begin Johannesburg to Maun flights in 2009.

Most major international airlines from Europe, the United States, Asia and Australia fly into Johannesburg, South Africa, where connecting flights can be booked to Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone or to Maun.

For flight details contact:
Air Botswana Central Reservations
Tel: 267 395-1921
Web: www.airbotswana.bw



GAZETTED BORDER POSTS

BOTSWANA / NAMIBIA

Mamuno	07h00–00h00
Ngoma	06h00–22h00
Mohembo	06h00–18h00

BOTSWANA / SOUTH AFRICA

Pont Drift (Tuli)	08h00–16h00
Martin's Drift	08h00–18h00
Tlokweng Gate	06h00–00h00
Ramotswa (Bridge)	07h00–19h00

South African Express
Tel: 267 397-2397
Web: www.flysax.com

BY ROAD

Botswana is accessible by tarred road from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia. Vehicles are driven on the left hand side of the road. A valid international driver's license, along with vehicle registration documents, are required to drive in Botswana, and drivers should always carry them.

Most major roads in Botswana are tarred and driving conditions are generally good. The main roads to established areas are regularly graded. Four-wheel drive is required when travelling in the national parks and reserves, as well as in remote areas.

Car and four-wheel drive rental services are widely available in major tourist centres, airports and hotels.

BY BUS

There are scheduled bus services across borders between Botswana and South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Zambia, as well as good internal bus services linking major and minor towns and villages across the country.

Ramatlabama	06h00–22h00
Pioneer Gate	06h00–00h00
McCarthy Rest	08h00–16h00

BOTSWANA/ ZIMBABWE

Kazungula	06h00–18h00
Pandamatenga	08h00–17h00
Ramokgwebana	06h00–22h00

BOTSWANA / ZAMBIA

Kazungula (Ferry)	06h00–18h00
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BY RAIL

From South Africa or Zimbabwe, Botswana can be reached via a railway line that runs along the eastern part of the country, passing through Lobatse, Gaborone and Francistown. Tickets for various classes of passenger travel can be purchased at any of the station offices or on the train. Reservations can be made at the railway station in Gaborone 267 395-1401 and Francistown 267 241-3444.

For more information consult:
The Botswana Railways website:
www.botswanarailways.co.bw

GETTING AROUND IN TOWNS

Taxis are normally a convenient way to get around in towns and are reasonably priced. They are easily identified in designated stations or can be contacted by telephone. Taxis to Gaborone are also available from Sir Seretse Khama International Airport.



ENTRY FORMALITIES

VISAS

Citizens of most European and Commonwealth countries do not require a visa for entry into Botswana.

Visitors should check with Botswana embassies or consulates, or their travel agents, before departure.

Visitor visas are normally granted for 30 days, but can be extended for a total of three months.

It is vital for visitors to carry a valid passport and sufficient funds to facilitate their stay.

Note: For countries with whom Botswana has no diplomatic representation, visa information and processing is available through British Embassies and High Commissions.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

It is advisable to adhere to the luggage restrictions for both scheduled international, domestic and charter flights: 20kgs (44lbs) on domestic flights, 12kgs (26lbs) on light aircraft (including Okavango Delta charter flights), and 20kgs (44lbs) on international flights.

VACCINATIONS

If you are travelling to Botswana from areas infected with Yellow Fever, you must have a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate. Otherwise, no other immunisations are required.



CUSTOMS OFFICES

HEADQUARTERS

Private Bag 0041, Gaborone
Tel: 267 364-2100 / 392-2855
Fax: 267 392-2781

REGIONAL OFFICES

SOUTH REGION
P.O. Box 263, Lobatse
Tel: 267 533-0566,
Fax: 267 573-32477

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
Private Bag 00102, Gaborone
Tel: 267 364-2100 / 392-2855
Fax: 267 392-2781

CENTRAL REGION
P.O. Box 129, Selebi Phikwe
Tel: 267 261-3699 / 261-0627
Fax: 267 261-5367

NORTH REGION
P.O. Box 457, Francistown
Tel: 267 241-3635
Fax: 267 241-3114

NORTH WEST REGION
P.O. Box 219, Maun
Tel: 267 686-1312
Fax: 267 686-0194

However, it would be wise to have an updated TPD (tetanus, polio, diphtheria) vaccine, and a Hepatitis A vaccine.

CUSTOMS

All goods acquired outside Botswana must be declared when you enter the country.

BOATS

No boat, mokoro or aquatic apparatus may be imported into Botswana, unless the owner is in possession of an import permit issued by the Department of Water Affairs.

For more information contact:

Department of Water Affairs
P/Bag 0029, Gaborone
Tel: 267 360-7100

PETS

The importation of animals is closely regulated for public health reasons and also for the well being of the animals. Domestic pets and livestock may be imported subject to animal health restrictions.

For more information contact:

Director of Animal Health & Production
P/Bag 0032, Gaborone
Tel: 267 395-0500

Note: A valid certificate of identity, rabies vaccination and movement permit issued in Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia or Zimbabwe will be accepted at the time of importation into Botswana.

DRIVERS' LICENSES

Drivers are required to carry their licenses at all times. Licenses from neighbouring countries are accepted in Botswana. If not written in English, a certified written translation is required. International drivers' licenses are accepted in Botswana.



DUTY FREE ALLOWANCES

Customs duties are not charged on the following goods imported as accompanied or unaccompanied passengers' baggage:

Wines	2 litres
Spirituos*.....	1 litre
Cigarettes	200
Cigars	20
Tobacco**	250 gms
Perfume	50 ml
Toilet water.....	250 ml

* Includes all other alcoholic beverages

** Includes cigarette and pipe tobacco

Note: Duty will be payable at the applicable rates where travellers import goods exceeding the above allowances. Travellers importing goods for business or commercial purpose will not qualify for the above allowances.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Non-residents visiting Botswana and coming from a country outside the Southern African Common Customs Area for a limited period are normally required to produce a carnet or bill of entry (any duty liability thereon being secured by bond or cash deposit) in respect of their motor vehicles. For further information, please contact Department of Customs.

Note: The Southern African Common Customs Area comprises Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland and Namibia.



WHAT TO BRING

Binoculars, torch, insect repellent, lip salve, sunscreen, sunglasses. Cosmetics, medications, and cigarettes are all available in the major towns, but if specific brand names are needed, it is best to bring enough to last your stay.

However, care needs to be taken to comply with international aviation security regulations for items in carry on luggage. Contact your airline for details.



WHAT TO WEAR

In summer, lightweight, light-coloured cottons are preferable. Garments of neutral colours that blend with the bush and forest are advisable for safaris and game viewing. Avoid synthetic materials and black clothing, as they increase perspiration and discomfort. Bring a lightweight jacket and/or jersey for unexpected temperature changes or rain.

In winter, wear trousers, long-sleeved shirts and blouses and jerseys. From May – August, night temperatures can fall below zero degrees celsius, so warm jerseys and jackets are vital, especially on early morning and evening game drives.

Closed, comfortable walking shoes or gym shoes are a must in all seasons.

Special attention should be given to protection from the sun. Bring a sunhat, good quality sunscreen, sun lotion and polarised sunglasses.

Wide brimmed hats are preferable to baseball caps.



IMPORTATION OF GOODS

CONSUMER GOODS

The following consumer goods may be imported for private use without an import permit, provided they do not exceed the maximum allowable quantities.

Key: PP-per person. PF-per family

PRODUCT TYPE	MAX QUANTITY
MEAT	
Red meat, goat/lamb	25 kg PF
Poultry meat	5 kg PP
Tinned poultry meat	20 kg PP
DAIRY	
Eggs	36 eggs PP
Fresh milk	2 litres PP
OTHERS	
Maize / maize products	25 kg PP
Wheat	25 kg PP
Pulses (beans, peas, lentils)	25 kg PP
Sorghum / sorghum products	25 kg PP
Cabbage, Onions	1 bag PP
Potatoes, Oranges, Tomatoes, Chimolia, Rape, Spinach	
Bread loaves	6 per week

PLANTS

Plants may be imported subject to plant health restrictions, and South African transit permits may also be required in respect of plants shipped through South Africa.

For more information contact:
Ministry of Agriculture, Enquiries
P/Bag 003, Gaborone
Tel 267 395-0500

MEAT / DAIRY PRODUCTS

The regulations on importing meat products change frequently, because they are based on disease outbreaks in different countries. Always ask customs officials upon arrival what are the specific regulations.

For more information contact:
Ministry of Agriculture, Enquiries
P/Bag 003, Gaborone
Tel 267 395-0500

RESTRICTED GOODS

These are goods that can only be imported with a license or permit.

- Narcotic, habit forming drugs and related substances in any form;
- Firearms, ammunition and explosives;
- Indecent and obscene material such as pornographic books, magazines, films, videos, DVDs and software.



COMMUNICATIONS

Most of Botswana is networked by automatic telephone exchanges, with public telephones in even the most remote places.

The International access code in Botswana is 00. When calling international to Botswana, dial + 267.

Cellular phone coverage is provided by three mobile networks in Botswana: Mascom, Orange and be Mobile. Mobile Sim cards are available in most supermarkets and service stations. All major towns in Botswana are network covered, as well as portions of the national highway.

Mobile networks in Botswana offer various services to their subscribers, including Internet access, fax, and International Roaming. It is always important to seek advice about network services so as to choose one that will work for you.

Using a cellular phone whilst driving is against the law in Botswana, and liable to a P300 fine. Earphones or hands-free devices are recommended.

For further information on the network providers in Botswana, consult the following services:

MASCOM www.mascom.co.bw
ORANGE www.orange-botswana.co.bw
BTC www.btc.co.bw
be Mobile www.be-mobile.co.bw



OFFICE HOURS

Government Offices / Departments
7:30 - 12:45 and 13:45 - 16:30
Business 8:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00
Shops 9:00 - 18:00 Monday to Friday,
9:00 - 15:00 Saturday
9:00 - 13:00 Sunday



MONEY

CURRENCY

The Botswana currency is the Pula (meaning 'rain' in Setswana). It is divided into 100 thebe (meaning 'shield' in Setswana).

Travellers' cheques and foreign currency may be changed at banks, bureaux de change, and authorised hotels.

The US dollar, Euros, British Pound and the South African Rand are the most easily convertible currencies.

Automatic teller machines accept foreign visa cards, but are mostly found in larger towns and cities. Cultural sites and community art and craft outlets usually only accept cash.

BANKS

Six main commercial banks, as well as a number of foreign exchange bureaux, operate in Botswana.

BANKING HOURS:

Monday to Friday 8:30-15:30
Saturday 8:30 to 10:45.

CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards, such as MasterCard and Visa, are accepted throughout the country, in most hotels, restaurants, retail outlets and safari companies. However, shops in remote areas and service stations may only accept cash.



TIME

GMT plus 2 hours



ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

Electricity is supplied at 220/240v. Both square and round wall plugs are used.



FIREARMS & AMMUNITION

The issue of firearms licenses in Botswana is strictly controlled, and all firearms imported under the authority

of an import permit must be licensed immediately upon arrival in Botswana. The importation of firearms that do not have the manufacturer's serial number or other number by which they can be identified, stamped or engraved on a metal part of the weapon is totally prohibited.

It should also be noted that police permits for firearms are issued on a limited quota basis, and there can be a considerable delay in obtaining a permit, particularly on first importation. It is advisable for intending importers to make applications well in advance of dispatch, so that unnecessary inconvenience and expenses can be avoided.

Police permits for firearms are issued by:
Central Arms, The Registry
P O Box 334, Gaborone.
Tel: + 267 391-4202, +267 391-4106



DIAMOND PURCHASE

Visitors to Botswana have the opportunity to purchase diamond jewellery from authorised dealers. A strict certification system is in place to inform the buyer of the origin of the diamond, and the stated value and quality is verified.



HEALTH

Botswana is one of the healthiest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with good primary health care facilities available throughout the country. However, the following health precautions are advised.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is essential for visitors to remote areas of Botswana to have a comprehensive

medical insurance policy, to provide coverage for the treatment of serious illnesses/accidents, and if required, medical evacuation. Personal effects insurance is also advisable.

Check that your insurance policy will be accepted by service providers in Botswana. Ensure that you are treated by licensed medical personnel to enable you to provide your insurance company with appropriate documentation and receipts.

Reasonably priced medical services are available at government clinics and hospitals throughout the country. Private medical practitioners are available in the cities and major towns, such as Gaborone, Francistown and Maun. Gaborone Private Hospital is the largest private hospital in Botswana. The hospital requires medical coverage, or cash payment in advance where medical coverage is not available.

DRINKING WATER

Tap water throughout the country is safe to drink. Bottled mineral water is readily available in most shops and supermarkets, and at camps and lodges. Tourists travelling by road are advised to carry sufficient water at all times.

HIV/AIDS

Visitors are advised to take the necessary precautions against HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

MALARIA

Malaria, including cerebral malaria, is common in northern Botswana, in the Okavango and Chobe areas, particularly during and immediately following the rainy season, from November to April.

As the strains of malaria, and the drugs used to combat them, frequently change,

and as certain strains can become drug resistant, it is best to seek medical advice before your departure and take any medication prescribed. Pregnant or very young children are not advised to travel to malarial areas.

Other precautions are: to wear long sleeves, socks, closed shoes, and generally keep the body covered, to sleep with a mosquito net and to use mosquito coils and repellent.

SUN AND HEAT-RELATED PROBLEMS

Always take preventive measures that include wearing a wide-brimmed sunhat and sunglasses, liberally applying sunscreen every three or four hours, regularly taking rehydration mixes, drinking plenty of water and fruit juices (at least three litres of liquid daily), avoiding prolonged exposure to the sun, and avoiding excessive amounts of alcohol, which causes dehydration.



SHOPPING

All major towns in Botswana, including Maun and Kasane, have shopping centres and supermarkets, and all basic commodities can easily be purchased. Many regional chain stores operate in Botswana. In addition, there are 24-hour convenience shops at most fuel service stations.

There is an increasing range of local arts and crafts on sale in Gaborone, Maun and Kasane and other tourist areas; they include Botswana's renowned world-class baskets, woodcarvings, jewellery, pottery, tapestries, fabrics and clothing, glassware, and San crafts.

VALUE ADDED TAX

To claim 10% VAT refund for total value of goods purchased, the amount spent

should be more than P5 000. In such cases, the following is required: a tax invoice stating VAT paid, your passport number and your bank account details.

It is always advisable to keep a copy of the VAT form as a record for any follow-up on the transaction.

VAT claims usually can be made at all major border posts and airports.



SAFETY

The self-drive camper driving the open roads in Botswana should always drive at a reasonable speed, and avoid over-taking, except when absolutely necessary.

CRIME

Botswana remains a relatively safe place to visit or live. Take the normal precautions you would take anywhere else:

- Always lock car doors;
- Always lock hotel rooms;
- Don't leave valuables in cars or hotel rooms;
- Take care with your bags in shopping centres and other crowded places, and after coming out of banks or ATM kiosks;
- Avoid walking alone at night.



ACCOMMODATION

All major towns and villages in the country have hotels, lodges, motels and guesthouses, catering to a range of budgets, and some have camping facilities. In and around parks and reserves, there are a variety of lodges, as well as camps in private concessions.

Camping facilities are widely available around the country, both at private

lodges and/or hotels, and within the government parks and reserves.

Visit www.botswanatourism.co.bw for graded accommodation facilities.



NATIONAL PARKS & RESERVES

Botswana's extensive system of national parks and game reserves comprises approximately 17% of national land area. A further 18% of national land is allocated as Wildlife Management Areas which act as buffer zones around the parks and reserves.

The parks are primarily unfenced, allowing wildlife to freely roam, are situated in a variety of habitats and for the most part are well managed.

Camping facilities are available in all national parks and reserves. Campsites typically have standpipes and ablution blocks, with toilets and showers.

All camping in the national parks and reserves is in designated campsites, and campers are not allowed to camp elsewhere in the parks.

Reservations for camping in national parks and reserves should be made prior to departure.

For park camping reservations, contact:
Department of Wildlife & National Parks
Gaborone Office: P.O. Box 131, Gaborone
Tel: 267 318-0774, Fax: 267 391-2354
Maun Office: P.O. Box 11, Maun
Tel: 267 686-1265, Fax: 267 686-1264

Offices can be emailed on dwnp@gov.bw

Note: If you cannot honour your reservations, please cancel well in advance to give others a chance.

NORTHERN BOTSWANA

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

A park abundant in wildlife, offering a safari experience of a lifetime.

Size: 11 700 km²

When to visit: all year round

Rainfall: 600mm per annum

Altitude: 930m to 1000m above sea level

MOREMI GAME RESERVE

Described as one of the most beautiful wildlife reserves in Africa.

Size: 5 000 km²

When to Visit: all year round

Climate: Temperatures range from about 14° Celsius (July) to 24° Celsius (January)

Rainfall: 525mm per annum, varying

Altitude: 930m to 1000m above sea level

NXAI PAN NATIONAL PARK

Once part of a prehistoric lake that covered central Botswana, this park is now transformed into fossil pans covered with grassland that attract an abundance of game.

Size: 2 578 km²

When to visit: all year round

Climate: Hot, extreme daytime conditions

MAKGADIKGADI PANS GAME RESERVE

Part of one of the world's largest salt pans and prehistoric lakes.

Size: 12 000 km²

When to visit: all year round

Climate: Hot, extreme daytime conditions

Rainfall: 500mm per annum

Altitude: 930m to 1000m above sea level

MAUN EDUCATIONAL PARK

Situated on the eastern banks of the Thamalakane River, the park is an education centre for schoolchildren; it has a variety of wildlife species that can be viewed from game hides.

When to visit: all year round

CENTRAL BOTSWANA

CENTRAL KALAHARI GAME RESERVE

The world's second largest reserve, holding vast open plains, scrub bush, salt pans, ancient riverbeds, and sand dunes.

Size: 52 800 km²

When to visit: all year round

Climate: Hot, dry conditions

Rainfall: 150mm per annum

Altitude: 600m to 1600m above sea level

KHUTSE GAME RESERVE

Characterised by undulating plains and dry Kalahari bush savannah, with an extensive mineral pan system in the reserve, which attracts animals.

Size: 2,500 km²

When to visit: all year round

WESTERN BOTSWANA

TRANS-KALAHARI FRONTIER PARK

Famous for its large antelope herds, this is Africa's first peace park, where animals roam freely across the national borders of Botswana and South Africa.

Size: 36 000 km²

When to visit: all year round

Climate: Hot, dry conditions

Rainfall: 200mm per annum, varying

Altitude: 900m to 1100m above sea level

SOUTHERN BOTSWANA

GABORONE GAME RESERVE

Nestled in the city and a popular spot for city residents, the park offers game and bird viewing, picnic sites and an education centre.

Size: 500 Hectares

When to visit: all year round

Rainfall: 510mm per annum

Altitude: 970m above sea level

MANNYELANONG GAME RESERVE

The name of the park derives from the Cape Vulture, an endangered bird that is protected; the area is fenced and the birds can only be viewed from afar.

When to visit: all year round



SELF DRIVE CAMPING

Embarking on a camping trip in Botswana requires a good deal of planning and preparation. You will be going to remote areas, accessible only by four-wheel drive, where water, petrol or food may not be available. You may often be driving on rough terrain, and through heavy sand, in conditions very different from those you are used to.

As a general rule, take all food requirements to last your stay. Take at least 20 litres of water per person, preferably more; for desert destinations, carry between 50 and 100 litres. Carry at least 100 litres of petrol in long-range tanks or in metal jerry tins. Take spare vehicle parts for breakdowns.

As campsites within game reserves and national parks are usually not fenced, it is important for campers to take necessary precautionary measures to ensure their safety, and to abide by the information provided by wildlife officers.

The following basic camping rules should be strictly heeded:

- Only camp in designated campsites.
- Always sleep in your tent, roof tent or vehicle. Make sure your tent zips up well.
- Don't sleep with legs or arms protruding from the tent.
- Use rubbish receptacles at the campsites; if there are none, carry

away all rubbish until you get to the next town.

- Cigarette butts should be well extinguished and placed in a rubbish bag, not thrown on the ground.
- Make sure the campfire is well extinguished at the end of the evening, or after use, and cover it with sand.
- Don't sleep on bridges or animal paths, particularly those of elephants and hippos.
- Bury all faecal matter and burn all toilet paper.
- Don't bathe or drink from still bodies of water; there is the danger of bilharzia.
- In the Okavango, don't swim in lagoons or streams; there is the danger of crocodiles and/or hippos.
- Children must be constantly supervised. Never leave them alone in the campsite. Never allow children to nap on the ground or in the open.
- Don't stray far from the campsite, or walk in the bush, unless with a qualified guide.

The general rule of thumb for camping in Botswana is - take only memories, leave only footprints.

FISHING

In the Panhandle area of the Okavango, there are a number of camps and lodges that specialise in fishing excursions. Fishing can also be done on the Chobe River, outside the park. Fishing is only

allowed in designated areas of the national parks, and only with an official permit.

For fishing permit enquiries, contact:
Department of Wildlife & National Parks
Gaborone Office: P.O. Box 131, Gaborone
Tel: 267 397-1405, Fax: 267 391-2354
Maun Office: P.O. Box 11, Maun
Tel: 267 686-0368, Fax: 267 686-0053
Kasane Office: P.O. Box 17, Kasane
Tel: 267 625-0486, Fax: 267 625-1623
Note: Permits must be applied for in person. Both monthly and annual permits are issued.

FIREWOOD

Firewood is defined as wood that is both dead and fallen and which can be removed without the use of tools. Self-drive campers should use firewood sparingly and only when necessary.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance	997 (toll free)
Police	999 (toll free)
Fire Brigade	998 (toll free)
Medical Rescue	911 (toll free)
Medical Air Rescue	390-1601
Mascom	122
Orange	112
be mobile	1333

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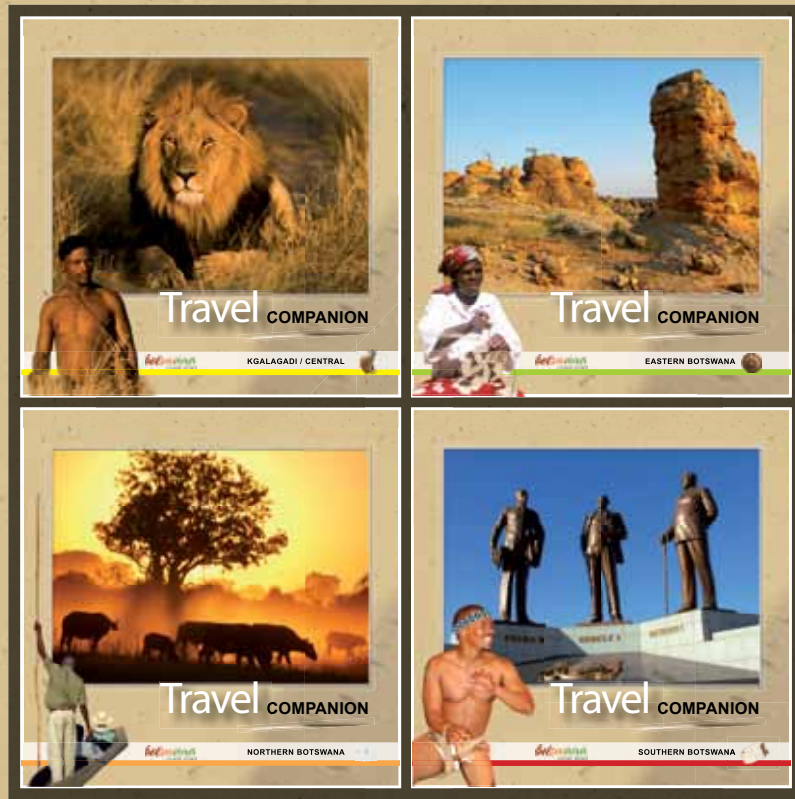
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